

What is claimed is:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. A fluid dynamic bearing, comprising:

a sleeve having an axial bore;

a shaft located in the axial bore of the sleeve, the shaft having an axial vent hole extending axially through the shaft, and a lateral vent hole extending radially from the axial vent hole to an exterior of the shaft;

a set of bearings located between the sleeve and the shaft;

a lubricant located between the axial bore of the sleeve, the shaft, and the set of bearings to reduce friction during operation;

a seal protruding from the shaft to resist a flow of the lubricant into the lateral vent hole; and wherein

the seal is an annular ring that circumscribes the shaft.

4. The fluid dynamic bearing of claim 3 wherein an outer surface of the annular ring is spaced apart from the axial bore of the sleeve by a clearance of approximately 50 μm , which forms a labyrinth seal for the lubricant.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. A fluid dynamic bearing for a spindle motor, comprising:
 - a sleeve having an axial bore;
 - a shaft located in the axial bore of the sleeve, the shaft having an axial vent hole extending through the shaft;
 - a recess formed in a lateral outer surface of the shaft;
 - a lateral vent hole in the shaft extending radially from the axial vent hole to an exterior of the shaft in the recess;
 - a set of bearings located between the sleeve and the shaft;
 - a lubricant located between the axial bore of the sleeve, the shaft, and the set of bearings on both axial sides of the lateral vent hole to reduce friction during operation;
 - an annular ring circumscribing the shaft and protruding radially outward from the lateral vent hole to resist a flow of the lubricant into the lateral vent hole during non-operational vibration.
12. The fluid dynamic bearing of claim 11 wherein an outer surface of the annular ring is spaced apart from the axial bore of the sleeve by a clearance to form a labyrinth seal for the lubricant, wherein clearance is air permeable and lubricant impermeable.
13. The fluid dynamic bearing of claim 11 wherein the ring, the recess, and an adjacent portion of the axial bore of the sleeve are all coated with a barrier film to resist the lubricant.
14. The fluid dynamic bearing of claim 11 wherein the ring has a radial hole that is in communication with the lateral vent hole.
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)